

REMARKS

FORMAL MATTERS:

Claims 21-42 are now pending in this application.

The independent claims 21, 28 and 37 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention. The amendments to each of these claims are supported within the originally filed application. Although support can be found in a number of places the Examiner is specifically referred to page 2 at lines 27-30 and page 11, lines 10-12. No new matter has been added.

The claims were rejected as unpatentable over Knight et al. under 35 U.S.C. §103. The rejections are traversed as applied and as they might be applied to the presently pending claims.

In support of the rejection relating to the claim element which allows the liquid jet to exit the orifice in evenly shaped drops the rejection refers to col. 3, lines 48-55 and col. 5, lines 42-53. These portions of the patent do indicate that the Knight et al. device results in a "steady stream of small particles." Further, these portions indicate that the "particles have a maximum diameter of 10 microns and predominantly in the range of 1 to 2 microns.

However, applicants have amended each of the independent claims. Applicants now clearly indicate that the method forms a stable liquid-gas interface. The interface is formed in a manner whereby **the gas surrounds and focuses the liquid into a stable liquid jet which is focused on and exits from the first orifice the pressure chamber**. There is no disclosure within Knight et al. with respect to using a gas in order to form a stable liquid-gas interface. More specifically, there is no disclosure with respect to surrounding the liquid with a gas in order to focus the liquid into a stable liquid jet which is focused on and exits from a pressure chamber. In view of such Knight et al. does not disclose the presently claimed invention. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the present application.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that all of the claims are in condition for allowance, which action is requested. If the Examiner finds that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of fees associated with this communication, including any necessary fees for extensions of time, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0815, order number AERX-063CON4.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: 27/08/05

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